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REF 3638-61

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Plans)

SUBJECT: C-123-B Aircraft Capabilities

1. The following information is provided in response to your oral request.

2. The C-123 is a medium assault cargo aircraft having many desirable characteristics and features which recommend it as a support aircraft in undeveloped areas. Among them are its ability to operate from unprepared fields, ease in cargo handling, and relative simplicity of operation to facilitate crew qualification.

3. The C-123 has a large cargo compartment with the floor about 32 inches above ground. A hydraulically-operated ramp and cargo door system, which forms an integral part of the aft compartment, facilitates the loading and unloading of troops, general cargo, and vehicles. This door also permits rearward-exiting aerial supply drops as opposed to the more difficult side exiting delivery.

4. A slow approach speed and fully reversible props result in a landing roll-out as short as 1,010 feet at sea level. Take-off distance with maximum power is as little as 1,450 feet. While these figures are for maximum loads from dry paved runways, the aircraft is designed for operations from short hastily prepared airstrips. Ground roll under these conditions should not exceed 2,000 feet.

5. With an operating weight of 33,000 lbs. and a gross weight of approximately 56,000 lbs., its useful load is 23,000 lbs. Maximum landing gross weight is approximately 54,000 lbs. For a mission of 500 nautical miles with an allowance of one hour fuel reserve, the cargo capacity is approximately 19,000 lbs. With maximum internal fuel for

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a range of approximately 1,300 nautical miles, the cargo capacity drops to 10,000 lbs. A range of approximately 2,200 nautical miles further reduces the cargo capacity to about 5,000 lbs.

6. It is believed that the information provided above supports our recommendation of the C-123-B as a replacement for C-47 and C-46 aircraft in and elsewhere in Southeast Asia.

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STANLEY W. BIERLI
Colonel USAF
Acting Chief, HFD-IB/P

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DPD/ASB, lds (8193)
19 June 1961

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